

Collinge's 'The Food of Some British Wild Birds.'¹—With the subtitle "A study in economic ornithology" and the limiting word 'some' in the main caption, it would appear that this little book deserved to escape censure because it does not absolutely settle the economic status of British birds. But it has nevertheless been rather pointedly criticised² evidently by someone with a bias in favor of uniform protection of all birds. A few words of truth uttered by Professor Collinge about certain injurious species, apparently are all this critic was able to see in the book and his prejudice is such that these could not be endured. This censorious reviewer states "it cannot be said that his (Collinge's) book greatly advances knowledge on this debated subject."

This statement, which serves chiefly to manifest the ignorance of this reviewer, is not only untrue but slanderous. Professor Collinge's book reports on the original examination of more than 3,000 stomachs of British birds, and is therefore by far the largest single contribution to its subject thus far made. The facts that the author includes digests of the researches of other works and gives a comprehensive bibliography are also held up against him by the afore-mentioned censor. The work has simply been done in modern and excellent style, and these inclusions make it immensely more valuable to all really interested in its subject matter.

Professor Collinge's book includes besides 4 general introductory and 3 concluding chapters, detailed reports on the food of 29 species of birds, besides chapters on "Birds as destroyers and distributors of weed seeds" and "Birds in relation to forestry."

The treatment by species includes an abstract of previously published evidence, tabulation of contents of stomachs examined, field observations by the writer, notes on the food of nestlings (when studied), examination of faeces (when made) and conclusions. The conclusion is preponderately favorable to 18 species and more or less unfavorable to 11. Professor Collinge elaborates upon and reiterates his previously expressed opinion as to the lack of beneficial influence in the case of seed-eating birds. He states that birds on the whole are praiseworthy in their relations to forests. All in all this is the best handbook of the food of British Birds in existence and should be in the hands of everyone who desires reliable information on economic ornithology in this particular field.—W. L. M.

Bigglestone on Nesting Behavior of the Yellow Warbler.³—This paper is based upon a continuous study of a nest of young Yellow Warblers from the time of the hatching of the eggs, and irregular earlier observations, the observer occupying a blind situated close to the nest. With the co-operation of eleven assistants it was possible to record the actions of parents

¹ London 1913, 109 pp.

² Bird Notes and News, Vol. V, No. 6, June, 1913, pp. 93-94.

³ A study of the Nesting Behavior of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*.) By Harry C. Bigglestone. Wilson Bulletin, Vol. XXV, No. 2, June, 1913, pp. 49-67